

REMARKS

Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claims 1 – 8 and 12 - 15 remain pending. In particular, Applicant has amended claims 12 and 14, and has canceled claims 9 – 11 without waiver, disclaimer or prejudice. Applicant has canceled claims 9 - 11 merely to reduce the number of disputed issues and to facilitate early allowance and issuance of other claims in the present application. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of these canceled claims in a continuing application, if Applicant so chooses, and does not intend to dedicate the canceled subject matter to the public. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

Restriction Requirement

The Office Action has issued a restriction requirement, alleging that the claims are directed to three distinct inventions. A first invention is alleged to be defined by a transport system of claims 1-8, a second invention is alleged to be defined by a fabrication system of claims 9-11, and a third invention is alleged to be defined by a transport method of claims 12-15. In this regard, Applicant hereby provisionally elects claims 1-8 for prosecution on the merits, with traverse.

In this regard, Applicant has canceled claims 9-11 and amended claims 12 and 14, as set forth above. Applicant respectfully asserts that the remaining two groups of claims are now not sufficiently distinct inventions (to warrant separation into different application). In particular, the process as claimed in the amended Group III cannot be practiced by another materially different apparatus or by hand. The process claimed in claim 12 is restricted to be implemented in a system materially the same with that claimed in Group I, as specified in the first two steps of claim 12. The process claimed in claim 14 is restricted to be implemented in a system materially

the same with that claimed in the Group I. Additionally, each step of the process claimed in claim 14 is restricted to one of the element of the system specified in the preamble thereof. Furthermore, the apparatus as claimed in Group I cannot be used to practice another materially different process.

For at least these reasons, Applicants traverse the restriction requirement and respectfully requests that both of the groups be considered and examined.

No fee is believed to be due in connection with this amendment and response. If, however, any fee is deemed to be payable, you are hereby authorized to charge any such fee to Deposit Account No. 20-0778.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daniel R. McClure', written over a horizontal line.

Daniel R. McClure
Registration No. 38,962

THOMAS, KAYDEN, HORSTEMEYER & RISLEY, L.L.P.
Suite 1750
100 Galleria Parkway N.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30339
(770) 933-9500